MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled:

We, the women of Utah, view with deepest regret the bills that have been presented in Congress during the present session, asking for special legislation for our Territory; which, if carried into effect, will destroy the peace, tranquility and prosperity which have heretofore characterized our dearly loved homes. We were driven to these mountain vales by the cruel hand of persecution, while, on our journey as outcasts and exiles, our sons, husbands and fathers were called upon by the nation to battle for American rule in this country, then a portion of Mexico, and after struggling through privation and hardship such as men, women and children have seldom endured, your petitioners, many of them descendants of the Pilgrims of New England, with their fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, found a barren desert, inhabited only by savage Indians and wild beasts; here we have labored with the courage and endurance born only of religious faith, in helping to establish homes for ourselves and our children, and have made it easy for those coming at a later period, who found these valleys blooming with beauty, and teeming with plenty to enjoy all the blessings which pertain to life and happiness.

And we most respectfully represent to your honorable body, that the bills aforesaid, now pending in the Congress of the United States, are further calculated to destroy our birthright of liberty, the glorious heritage bequeathed by our noble ancestors.

And furthermore, we are well aware, that the present excitement in the nation is the result of ignorance and misrepresentation, and that the aim of our enemies is to rob us of our hard-earned homes and to plunder the public treasury. These schemes have been concocted by sectarian priests and political demagogues, and by women who are the tools of wicked and designing men, both men and women unscrupulous in their enmity, and mendacious in their statements, although they have homes and houses of worship in Utah Territory, comprising nearly all religious denominations, and are protected in all their rights as citizens, and as religious worshipers, without the least intrusion or molestation, and who, instead of reforming the morals of the community as they perfidiously pretend, have assisted in introducing and sustaining in our midst, the most demoralizing institutions known in the world.

And moreover, we, your petitioners, hereby testify that we are happy in our homes, and satisfied with our marriage relations, and desire no change. We are not the "oppressed and down-trodden women" we are represented to be, but enjoy more rights and freedom than women elsewhere in the nation, and we do know that our institutions are of such a nature as tends to purity of morals and elevation of character. And we most solemnly aver, before God and man, that our marital relations are most sacred, that they are divine, enjoining obligations and ties that pertain to time and reach into eternity. Were it not for the sacred and religious character of the institution of plural marriage, we should never have entered upon the practice of a principle which is contrary to our early teachings, and in consequence of which our names are cast out as evil, by the Christian world.

Therefore we most respectfully appeal to your honorable body to forbear hasty and reckless action in regard to so important a matter as the political disorganization of the most prosperous and flourishing Territory of which the nation can boast; and, before proceeding to radical changes, to do yourselves the justice to investigate, by a commission of honest and intelligent men and women, the true condition of the "Mormon" people of Utah Territory,

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

March, 1882.

Women's
Memorial to
Congress.